GUN CONTROL

Obama moved to action

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Your essential daily news | WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2016

High -3°C/Low -9°C Mix of sun and cloud

LAND OF THE RISING SUNS

Photographer Barbara Harvot captures a sun dog in Ottawa's east end on Tuesday morning metroNEWS

PHOTO COURTESY BARBARAHARVOTPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Algonquin taking heat

CONTROVERSY

Union calls for college to close Saudi campus after executions

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

The Ontario Public Service Employees Union is calling for Algonquin College to close its school in Jazan, Saudi Arabia.

The union has been a long-time critic of the male-only foreign campus, which reported a net loss of $1.486 million in the last school year.

But Jack Wilson, vice-president of Local 415 and a professor at Algonquin, said recent executions in Saudi Arabia demonstrate the educational partnership should end.

"We've been opposed from the get-go — even if we do make money — because we don't think we should be partnering with a country that has such a flagrant abuse of human rights," he said. "The fact that we're losing money just compounds it."

Last Saturday, Saudi Arabia's government executed 47 people on terrorism charges, including a minority Shia religious leader.

On Tuesday, Wilson and OPSEU president Warren Thomas said the college wouldn't need to rely on a partnership with Saudi Arabia if it could get more funding from the province.

The college is defending its decision to have a campus in Saudi Arabia.

"We mirror our position with the government of Canada," said Doug Wotherspoon, the school's vice-president of international and strategic priorities. "We're in Saudi Arabia because of that country's desire to modernize and reform its education system. You have two options; one is isolation and the other is engagement."

Wotherspoon said the school expects it will eventually turn a profit over the five-year contract with Saudi Arabia's Colleges of Excellence program.

metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Fast-food chains wage price war with meal combos designed to discourage dollar menus

Blaze guts unfinished house on Roosevelt Ave.

FIRE

No injuries were reported, 4 people were displaced

Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

Glittering ice-covered trees stood in stark contrast to the blackened ruins of an unfinished infill project on Tuesday morning after it went up in flames in the middle of the night in Westboro.

Ottawa Fire Services were called to the two-alarm blaze at 383 Roosevelt Avenue just north of Richmond Road shortly after midnight.

The fire started in the southern half of the unfinished stacked townhouse and quickly moved to the second unit since they weren't yet separated, fire investigators said.

$300K

The estimated amount in damages caused by the fire.

The building was completely destroyed, while homes at 377, 385, 387 Roosevelt and 378 Winston Ave all suffered minor damage. Four people have been displaced, and damages are estimated at $300,000. No injuries were reported, fire services said.

Hydro wires were also brought down by the fire, and Hydro Ottawa was still on the scene at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday.

Neighbours slowed on the sidewalk to survey the wreckage, but few had much to say about the blaze. Hugh Robillard, who lives down the street, said he slept through the commotion and only heard the news in the morning.

He wondered if two propane tanks in front of the building had anything to do with the fire, but investigators said they haven't yet nailed down a cause.

With temperatures dipping to -20 C overnight, efforts to fight the blaze coated the surrounding sidewalks, driveways and trees with a layer of white ice.

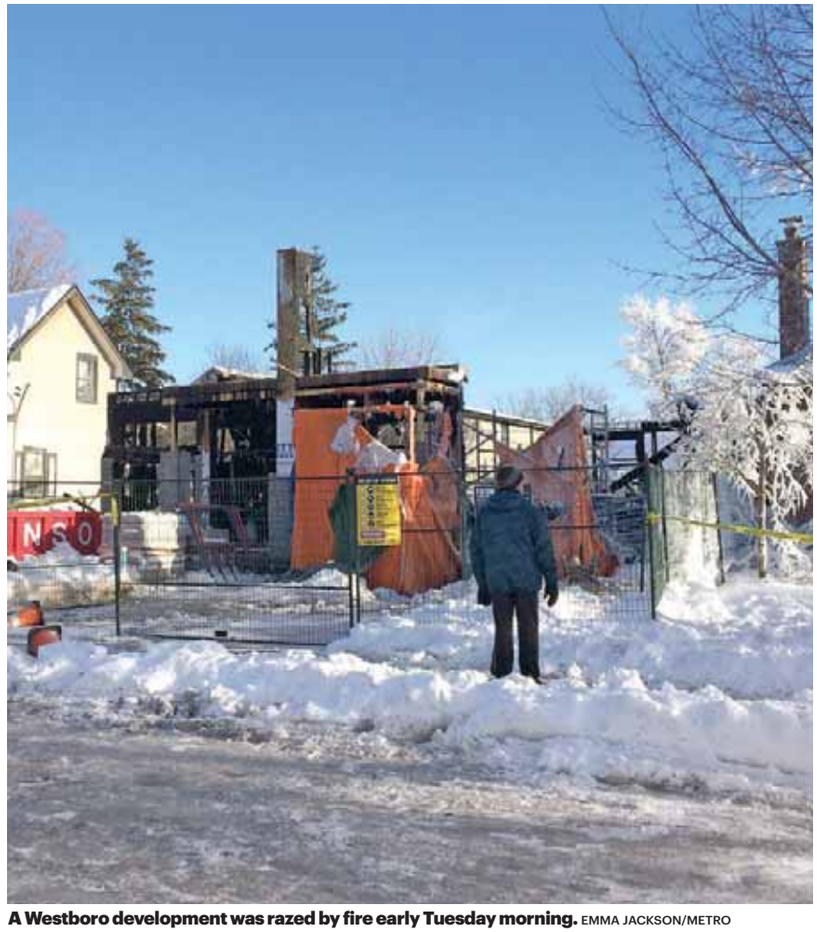
The fire department was busy overnight. After fire fighters quenched the Roosevelt fire, they also dealt with a basement blaze on Sandcliffe Terrace in Nepean before responding to a dumpster fire on Sandalwood Drive. Another dumpster fire was reported Monday evening in a high rise on Rochester Street.

Police are also investigating two confirmed arsons from the weekend.

Ottawa Fire Service said they were called to 320 Wiggins Pvt. at 10 p.m. Saturday evening after smoke set off fire alarms in the hallway of the third floor.

Fire Services received a separate call on Sunday for a garage fire at 1550 Michael St. in the east end.

Police said they ruled out non-



A Westboro development was razed by fire early Tuesday morning. EMMA JACKSON/METRO

TECHNOLOGY

Local companies display TV apps at CES

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

If your kids watch shows on your phone or you spend weekends plowing through episodes of Transparent on your Xbox, you're probably watching most of your TV on an app.

Two Ottawa tech companies are harnessing your binge-watching habits — and showing off their software at the massive Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas this week.

You.i TV representatives are down south after a busy year.

The multi-screen video developer secured $15 million in funding from L.A.-based venture-capital firm Kayne Partners in September.

This past year, the company almost quadrupled its employee numbers from 40 to 150.

They are responsible for creating the YTV and Treehouse Go apps, as well as the Rogers Media Shomi streaming service.

> **"People aren't looking at it as this risky thing anymore."**
> Jason Flick

"People aren't looking at it as this risky thing anymore," said CEO and co-founder Jason Flick.

Indeed, Apple CEO Tim Cook declared "the future of TV is apps" last year when he announced the company would open up its TV service to third-party app developers.

Kanata-based Nuvyyo, the creator of Tablo, is also attending CES this week to launch its new app geared for Apple TV. Tablo is like a PVR with apps — in which you can record or play live shows — but geared for local TV viewing (and you can ask Siri to jump ahead of commercial breaks).

About 90 per cent of the company's sales are in the U.S., but the software and hardware are developed in Ottawa.

People like the apps-for-TV model because it's more convenient and flexible, according to Nuvyyo CEO Grant Hall.

"They're looking for an à la carte solution. They're tired of having 500 channels forced on them when they only watch 17."

CES runs Jan. 6-9. Last year, the conference welcomed 170,000 attendees to 2.2-million net square feet of space — roughly the size of 38 NFL-sized football fields.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Toboggan hills not yet open

None of Ottawa's 59 tobogganing hills are officially open yet, even though there has been plenty of snow on the ground for about a week now.

But that hasn't stopped people from going sledding — even if they don't yet have the go-ahead from the city to hit the hills.

City staff must inspect each site to make sure there is enough snow on the ground and that hazards such as trees and boulders are wrapped in protective padding before the hills can officially open.

But the city has been too busy clearing snow off roads to do any inspections until now, parks and recreation manager Dan Chenier said.

"With the significant snow storm over the holidays, and priority directed to snow clearing, inspection of approved sites is expected to be completed by Wednesday, Jan. 6," Chenier said in an email.

The hills will open once all sites have been inspected, he added, although it's not clear if that will happen Wednesday, Thursday or even later in the week.

It's not like joy riders are being ticketed while the hills are closed — Chenier said slopes "are not policed during closures."

That doesn't mean the slopes are safe, though.

The city's long list of toboggan sites includes detailed accounts of the many obstacles and hazards that could seriously injure a sledder: from large rocks and soccer posts ripe for a crazy-carpet collision, to rivers and roadways too close for comfort at the bottom of a hill.

Any obstacles that can't be removed must be padded to prevent injuries, Chenier said.

Staff will also remove any improvised jumps they find on the slopes — and they'll be checking back throughout the season to make sure they don't reappear.

For a complete list of the city's 59 tobogganing hills, visit Ottawa.ca.

The NCC's Bruce Pit and Conroy Pit are also maintained by the City of Ottawa.

The city will issue a notice once the hills are officially open.

EMMA JACKSON/METRO

Accuser not alone at U of O

CRIME

Other woman reported man wanted in sex assault case

Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

Three months after Mélodie Morin, 18, filed a sexual-assault complaint with Ottawa police, investigators laid charges against the alleged assailant. The same man has been accused of harassing other women at the University of Ottawa. JOE LOFARO/METRO

The University of Ottawa received a complaint from one of its female students about a man who is now wanted on a Canada-wide arrest warrant for an alleged sexual assault on a second woman who used to go to the school.

The student complained to the university on Nov. 30 about the same man who is accused of sexually assaulting former University of Ottawa student Mélodie Morin two months earlier.

Morin, 18, was attacked in late September. She has since left the university on advice from her doctor.

She alleges the man — who she only knows as "Ayham" — sexually assaulted her for two hours on Sept. 25 while she was celebrating her birthday.

Ottawa police looked into her complaint, but Morin says they deemed the incident a "misunderstanding" and closed the case.

But Morin says she got a call from a detective on Dec. 24 telling her the man has been charged in absentia since he has left Canada and he will be arrested if he returns.

Ottawa police reopened her case after Morin went to the media to tell her story. The force released a statement saying the case was closed prematurely since "not all investigative avenues had been exhausted."

It was only once Morin had gone public with her story and urged the police to reopen her case that another female student contacted her through Facebook about her attacker.

That student — who spoke on the condition that her name not be published — shared with Metro a detailed complaint she emailed to the university about the same man identified by Morin.

The woman sent the complaint on Nov. 30 using her university email account to a member of the school's Protection Services unit, which investigates crimes that happen on campus.

In it, she says some of her friends were invited to a party at the man's home. The woman didn't go to that party, but she says her friends told her that when they arrived, the only people there were the man and another male.

The woman says she later got a second invitation to another party, which she declined. She says the man's behaviour was unsettling.

"Their demeanor was very creepy and persisting even though we very clearly weren't interested in having a conversation with them," the woman wrote in her statement.

In her complaint, she describes another encounter in early November in which she saw the man approaching women in the cafeteria.

She says she approached the women to ask if they knew the man. They told her that they did.

> **Their demeanor was very creepy and persisting even though we very clearly weren't interested in having a conversation with them.**
> Excerpt from a complaint the University of Ottawa received from a female student

The woman says in her complaint that the man apparently saw her talking to the women and chased her and one of her friends on campus.

"We were terrified and in tears," she wrote.

The woman says the episode left her with nightmares, and she avoided the cafeteria for a week for fear of seeing the man again.

A university spokesman declined to comment on the complaint, citing privacy concerns.

"The University of Ottawa is committed to work toward establishing a safe and respectful environment on campus free of sexualized violence," Patrick Charette said in a statement.

"We take all allegations very seriously. There are many resources available for victims, and new initiatives are also in the works. We co-operate with local police services."

Ottawa police have not named the man or commented on the charges he faces.

Morin says she is "not really impressed" by how her complaint was handled.

"I feel like they tell women to speak up, but we shouldn't have to yell to even get acknowledged," she said.

"That's what I had to do, I had to go to the media. I had to get on top of the roof to tell everybody what happened to me."

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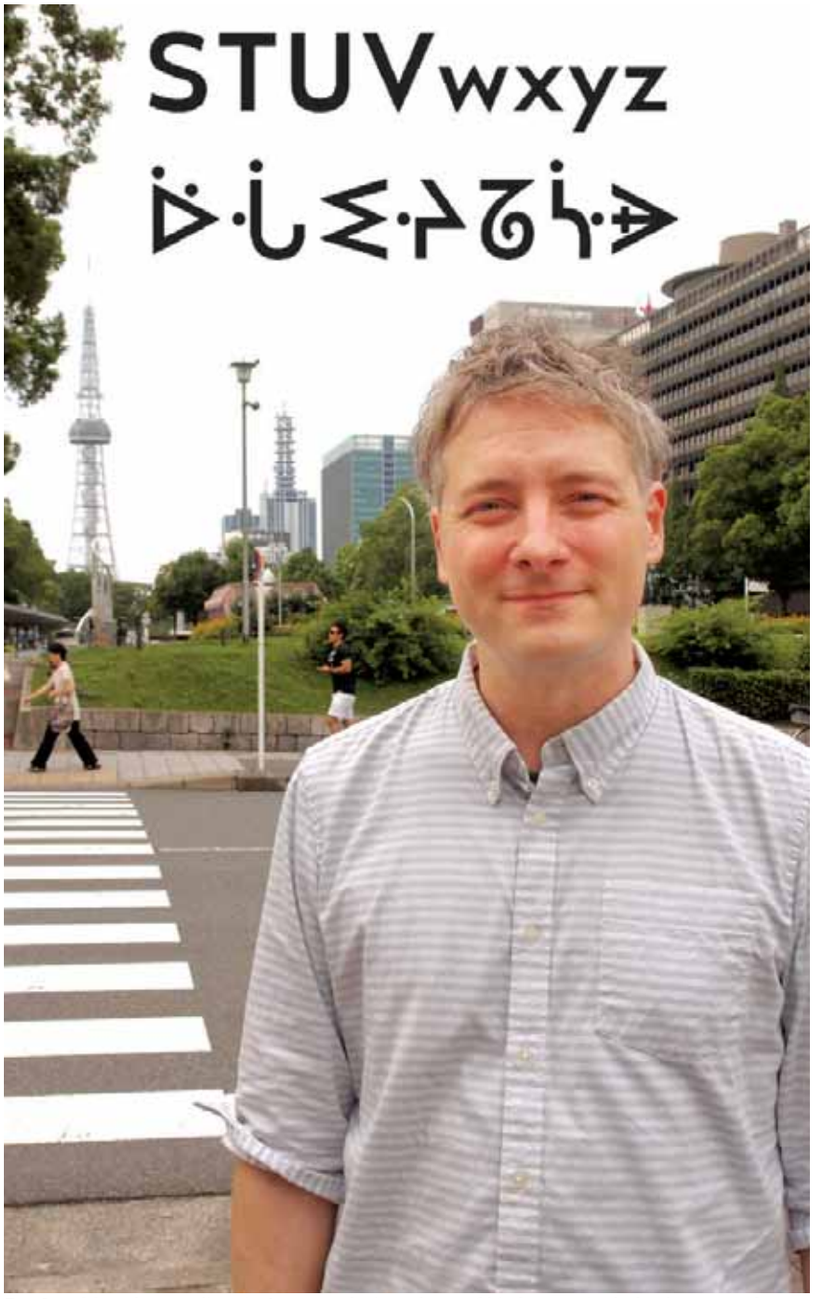

Ray Larabie, who now lives in Japan, redesigned one of his fonts to include characters for several indigenous languages. CONTRIBUTED; INSET: COURTESY GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Not just another pretty typeface

DESIGN

Official font for Canada's 150th draws on entire life of passion

Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

Many years before Ray Larabie designed Canada's new typeface, unifying English, French and indigenous languages for the country's 150th birthday next year, he was a font-crazed kid living near Arnprior, Ont.

The Ottawa-born designer developed his passion for typography as a small child, when his grandmother would bring home stacks of dry-transfer lettering from her job at the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

"I thought it was totally normal for people to know the names of fonts at a really young age," Larabie said in an interview from his home in Nagoya, Japan. "I could identify fonts even as a little kid."

There wasn't much of a career path to being a font designer in the late 1980s. So after getting a classical animation diploma at Oakville's Sheridan College, Larabie worked in the video-game industry as an art director.

He continued to tinker with fonts on the side as the digital age made them much cheaper to produce, making hundreds and releasing them for free.

"I was hoping I would go to the dollar store one day and see one of my fonts. That was my ambition," he said.

When he saw one of his fonts on the side of a bus in Mississauga in 1997, he felt like he'd made it. Later, a font he designed inspired by The Price is Right was used for the video game Grand Theft Auto.

He eventually quit the gaming industry to do type design full-time, and moved to Japan in 2008.

Now, Larabie has designed Canada 150 — a typeface that supports English, French and a host of the country's dozens of indigenous languages.

Larabie first came up with the font in November 2014 "on a whim."

It's reminiscent of the Monopoly font, he said.

"There's a lot of early 20th-century sans-serif fonts in this kind of style."

> **I was hoping I would go to the dollar store one day and see one of my fonts. That was my ambition.** Ray Larabie

Last summer, Canadian Heritage officials approached Larabie about using it. He didn't hesitate.

"I didn't ask for money or anything, and they didn't offer," he said. "It's cool to be part of it. I had a font used for the Torino Olympics logo, but it's not the same because I wasn't consulted on it. I feel like I'm very involved with this one."

It's not Canada's first national typeface. The country's first Latin typeface, Carter, was designed in 1967 by Carl Dair. It was used on the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Typemaker Rod McDonald redesigned that font for the digital era in the 1990s.

USAGE

Those wishing to use the typeface must go through a federal-government application process, just as for the Canada 150 logo unveiled last April.

But Larabie's typeface includes all Latin characters and accents, common Cyrillic characters as well as syllabic and diacritical elements contained in indigenous languages.

It initially included only English and French; it took Larabie about a month to figure out which indigenous languages to include and work them in.

"If you're adding French to a font that only has English, you're just sticking accents on it," he said.

"But aboriginal syllabics are not based on a Latin alphabet; they're geometric.... You can't force them to be like the Latin alphabet."

Larabie appreciates the irony that a years-long resident of Japan has designed the typeface for the country's 150th birthday. But he insists it's a Canadian creation.

"If I just make a typeface off the top of my head, it's whatever my taste is," he said.

"I've absorbed enough Canadian stuff that everything that comes out of me is still Canadian."

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This photo of the sundog was taken at sunrise, by Trillium Elementary School teacher Danielle Richardson in Ottawa's east end. CONTRIBUTED

WEATHER

Spectacular sundog a cold-snap delight

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

Ottawa residents looking up on Tuesday morning were treated to an unusual weather display: a very bright sundog — or "phantom sun" — that lit up the sky.

Sundogs, also known as parhelia, look a bit like a winter rainbow. They appear only in very cold weather, according to David Phillips, senior climatologist with Environment Canada.

"It's really a textbook example," he said, adding that clear conditions on Tuesday morning made the sundogs especially vibrant.

Parhelia appear when sunlight interacts with ice crystals high in the atmosphere, creating two "mock suns" and a faint halo.

"Sometimes they were regarded as a forewarning of troubled times: a harbinger of foul weather. So there's some folklore that goes with them as well," Phillips said.

On Tuesday, the sight didn't generate any worry or fear about bad omens — just excitement from local photographers.

"I've seen sundogs before but never to that extent," said Barbara Havrot, a math teacher and amateur photographer who managed to snap an early-morning photo.

> **It's one of nature's art shows.**
> David Phillips, Environment Canada senior climatologist

"This was a complete arch, like a huge rainbow, in all its glory," she said.

If you missed the sundog this time, don't worry. Phillips said they are usually visible in Ottawa around 10 to 12 times per year.

"It's one of nature's art shows," he said. "I think if people looked out and up a little bit more they'd find a lot of mysteries and speculator artwork going on in the sky."

LABOUR STRIFE

Fifth charge in taxi squabble

A fifth person has been charged following the recent storming of the head office of Ottawa's largest taxi dispatcher.

The Nov. 13 incident began after a protest held by the Unifor Labour Union over increased airport pickup fees spilled into the Coventry Connections taxi dispatch centre.

Last month, Ottawa police charged four men in their mid-50s – none of whom are from Ottawa – with assault and mischief.

Police have now charged another man.

Gregory Whitson, 48, of Windsor, Ont., has been charged with mischief. He is scheduled to appear in court Jan. 7.

Anyone with information regarding this investigation is asked to call Ottawa Police's Central District Investigation Unit at 613-236-1222, ext. 5166. Anonymous tips can be submitted by calling Crime Stoppers toll-free at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), or by downloading the Ottawa Police app. METRO

Higher dump fine sought

GOVERNMENT

Private plows leaving snow on public land, city complains

Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

The city wants to collect a $500 fine every time a private plow operator dumps snow on public property.

Transportation committee chairman Coun. Keith Egli said staff would ask the province to allow Ottawa to raise its snow-dumping fine from $105 to $500 in an effort to stop private contractors from leaving massive snowbanks on sidewalks, roads and medians.

"The reality of it is, if your contractor dumps the snow on (city property), city staff have to clean it up," Egli said.

That means extra costs for staff time and fuel at a time when Ottawa's snow-clearing budget is already pinched.

And it's frustrating for city staff, who are blamed for blocked routes they may have already cleared, Egli said.

Bylaw officers have already laid six charges for illegal snow dumping during last week's winter storm, which dumped 25 centimetres of snow in only 14 hours. They could lay more charges pending ongoing investigations, Egli said.

He acknowledged it's difficult to make a charge like that stick, since the city would need a witness or some other proof that the operator really did dump snow on city property.

The bylaw department will send a letter this week to all licensed plow operators reminding them of the rules.

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Barn fire kills more than 40 racehorses

ONTARIO

Like losing a child, says one trainer who lost 7 animals

The deaths of 43 racehorses in a massive barn fire is more than just a professional catastrophe — it's akin to losing members of a family, one trainer said Tuesday.

Dan Lagace was working with seven horses that were being housed at the Classy Lane Stables in the southern Ontario town of Puslinch, about 20 kilometres south of Guelph. All of his animals and three dozen others perished Monday night in a blaze that could only be subdued through the efforts of 50 firefighters from multiple communities.

"It's almost like losing a child," the 38-year-old said.

Lagace said the blaze also represents a devastating professional setback. He said he has virtually nothing left, since equipment amassed over years was also destroyed in the fire.

The economic impact extends well into the close-knit, horse-oriented community, said Classy Lane co-owner Jamie Millier. Grooms, veterinarians, blacksmiths and other professionals involved in the industry will be feeling the effects of the equine deaths for months to come, he said.

Millier had been vacationing in Florida when he got word of the fire and hastily flew back to Canada. He said 43 horses were in the barn when the fire broke out. The death toll would have reached 45, but two other horses normally housed in the barn were out at races at the time.

The fire broke out on a night when temperatures dipped as low as -20 C.

Local crews responded quickly, but found the barn fully engulfed in flames once they arrived on scene.

Puslinch's fire chief Steven Goode said the wintry weather caused hose lines to keep freezing up and created challenging road conditions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

1 Tributes — Neighbour Madison Ross, 15, hangs ribbons, flowers and a stuffed pony she brought from home on a fence at Classy Lane Stables. Forty horses died during an overnight fire at the stables near Guelph, Ont.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

2 Fighting the inferno — Firefighters work to bring a blaze under control at the Classy Lane Stables, in Puslinch, Ont., on Tuesday.
ANDREW COLLINS/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

3 All that remains of the barn — Firefighters walk past the destroyed the Classy Lanes Stables on Tuesday.
HANNAH YOON/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

STUDY

Homeless veterans total 2,250

For what's believed to be the first time, the federal government has estimated how many of Canada's homeless are former soldiers.

The March 2015 study by Employment and Social Development Canada estimates that 2,250 former soldiers use shelters regularly, about 2.7 per cent of the total homeless population that uses temporary lodging.

The report, which comes from a database that tracks 60 emergency shelters across the country, noted that the data does not capture the number of veterans who do not use shelters.

Researchers found that veterans who end up homeless tend to be older than non-veterans in the same circumstances. The average age of homeless veterans is 52, compared with 37 in the general population.

"Interestingly, there is a particularly high rate of episodic homelessness among female veterans," said the report.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Cities opposed homeless count, data show

The federal government is moving ahead this month with a nationally co-ordinated count of homeless people, despite opposition from cities. Cities complained they wouldn't have enough time to get resources in place to count every homeless person during one 24-hour period, and that a count in January would skew results as the cold would drive more people indoors. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY

Breach due to 'imprudence'

An alleged security breach at one of the Royal Canadian Navy's most sensitive security operations was the result of imprudence, not malice, says the navy's commander on the Atlantic coast.

Rear Admiral John Newton said Tuesday the so-called data spill involving more than 1,000 secret documents was the result of mishandling of files by a civilian employee, a mistake that did not pose a threat to military intelligence.

Military police in Halifax allege that between 2004 and 2009 a web designer working at HMCS Trinity — the military's principal East Coast intelligence centre — used Defence Department networks to improperly store secret files.

A search warrant filed in provincial court alleges the actions of a man identified only as "Mr. Zawidski" violated a section of the federal Security Information Act that deals with wrongful communication of information.

The warrant, issued Sept. 15, 2015, says military police seized four hard drives, a laptop computer, some CDs and floppy disks from Zawidski's Halifax office in September.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DRIVE

1,086 secret documents

Zawidski's personal network drive contained 1,086 secret documents and 11 confidential documents, dated between 2004 and 2009, the warrant says.

Obama takes on gun lobby

UNITED STATES

Expanded background checks among planned steps

Tears streaking his cheeks, U.S. President Barack Obama launched a final-year push Tuesday to tighten sales of firearms in the U.S., using his presidential powers in the absence of tougher gun restrictions that Congress has refused to pass.

The president struck a combative tone as he came out with plans for expanded background checks and other modest measures that have drawn consternation from gun rights groups, which Obama accused of making Congress their hostage. Palpable, too, was Obama's extreme frustration at having made such little progress on gun control since the slaughter of 20 first-graders in Connecticut confronted the nation more than three years ago.

"First-graders," Obama said woefully, resting his chin on his hand and wiping away tears as he recalled the 2012 massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School. "Every time I think about those kids, it gets me mad."

Obama's 10-point plan to keep guns from those who shouldn't have them marked a concession by the president: He'll leave office without securing the new gun control laws he's repeatedly and desperately implored Congress to pass.

Although Obama can take action around the margins, only Congress can enact sweeping changes that gun-control advocates say are the only way to truly stem a scourge of mass shootings.

The centrepiece of Obama's plan is an attempt to narrow the loophole that exempts gun sales from background checks if the seller isn't a federal registered dealer. Whether that step can make a serious dent in unregulated gun sales is an open question, and one not easily answered.

Easily reversible by a future president, the guidance lacks the legal oomph of a new law, such as the one Obama and like-minded lawmakers tried but failed to pass in 2013. The Justice Department said the guidance "has no regulatory effect."

What's more, none of the steps would have probably prevented any of the recent mass shootings that Obama invoked: Aurora, Oak Creek, Charleston, Newtown, to name some. But Obama defiantly rejected that critique, dismissing it as the tired trope of gun lobbyists who question "why bother trying?"

"I reject that thinking," Obama said. "We maybe can't save everybody, but we could save some." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. President Barack Obama gets emotional as he delivers a statement on executive actions to reduce gun violence. JIM WATSON/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

It won't happen overnight. It won't happen during this Congress.... But a lot of things don't happen overnight.

HIGHLIGHTS

The plan

1 Expanded background checks
Anyone who's in the business of selling guns must obtain a licence, regardless of where they sell, and must conduct background checks on their customers.

2 More FBI examiners
The FBI will hire over 230 more staff to help process background checks. The FBI is also modernizing NICS and improving the response time for alerting local law enforcement that someone who is disqualified from buying a gun attempted to do so.

3 Lost and stolen weapons
A dealer shipping a gun is responsible for notifying law enforcement once it is determined it was lost or stolen in transit.

4 Smart gun technology
The departments of Defence, Homeland Security and Justice have been directed to conduct or sponsor research into smart gun technology aimed at reducing the risk of accidental gun discharges and improving the tracing of lost or stolen firearms.

5 Mental health
The White House is proposing a $500 million investment to improve mental health care.

CIVIL WAR

Syria's north short on food, medicine

Pro-government fighters recently evacuated from two besieged villages in northern Syria described harsh conditions there with scarce food and medicine, saying some residents are eating grass to survive and undergoing surgery without anesthesia.

The villages of Foua and Kfarya have been under siege for more than a year, but the situation has worsened since September. That's when insurgents captured a nearby air base where helicopters used to take off and drop canned food, vegetables, rice and bread to about 30,000 people in the mostly Shiite area.

"Our life was catastrophic," said Hussein Mahdi Kazem, a 16-year-old wounded fighter, from a hospital bed in Beirut.

But the two Shiite villages are not alone in their suffering. Both sides in Syria's nearly five-year-old conflict have used siege tactics on towns or villages as a way of getting an area under control.

In retaliation for the siege of the Shiite villages, opposition activists say Syrian troops and members of Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group have taken harsh measures against a Sunni area of Syria of about 40,000 people near the Lebanese border. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hani Ali Hassan was evacuated to Beirut from Foua, which has been under siege for over a year. HASSAN AMMAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

36 migrants killed on sea trying to reach Greece
Authorities recovered the bodies Tuesday of at least 36 migrants, including children, who drowned off Turkey after their boats overturned in rough waters as they tried to reach the Greek island of Lesbos, officials and news reports said. Twelve others were rescued.

Undeterred by the bitter cold and the rough winter seas, migrants are continuing to risk the journey to Greece in the hope of a better future in Europe. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iran criticizes Saudi Arabia for cutting ties
Iran's president said on Tuesday that Saudi Arabia cannot "cover up" its crime of executing a leading Shiite cleric by severing diplomatic relations with the Islamic Republic, even as the kingdom's allies began limiting their links to his country.

President Hassan Rouhani's comments came as Kuwait announced it had recalled its ambassador to Iran over attacks on Saudi diplomatic missions in the Islamic Republic. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Top economists see a bumpy year ahead

ECONOMY

Oil and loonie unlikely to rebound soon, experts say

Canada's economy, much like its weather, started the New Year in a deep freeze. And while warmer times lie ahead, the growth rate in 2016 is likely to be tepid at best.

That was the consensus of the top chief economists at Canada's largest banks at the annual Economic Club of Canada forecast session in Toronto on Tuesday.

The country's top economists kick off the New Year with a forecasting session in Toronto. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Oil prices: Slower growth in China, turmoil in the Middle East, and a market-share price war between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia-led OPEC mean oil prices are unlikely to regain their recent lofty highs any time soon, Scotiabank's Warren Jestin said. Even if oil prices rebound to $60 US a barrel from below $40 today, it won't be enough to reinvigorate investment in Canada's energy sector, he said.

The Canadian dollar: Closely tied to demand for oil, the Canadian dollar fell 16 per cent in 2015, its second-worst year on record. Economists now expect the loonie to fall below 70 cents US this year, likely by mid-March, as the U.S. dollar strengthens on hikes in the U.S. Federal Reserve's interest rate. However, investors shouldn't expect a dramatic recovery in the loonie even if oil prices move off their current lows, Avery Shenfeld, chief economist, CIBC World Markets, cautioned.

Scotiabank's Warren Jestin says oil prices are unlikely to regain their lofty highs any time soon. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The housing market: Calgary house prices, dragged down by the sagging energy sector, could fall a further 5 to 10 per cent in 2016, said Doug Porter, chief economist with Bank of Montreal Financial Group. Vancouver and Toronto house prices, the highest in the country, will face "some kind of correction in the next five years," Porter predicts. For the rest of Canada, he's predicting a soft landing. The Bank of Canada's ultra-low interest rates are unlikely to change in 2016, he added. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SELF-DRIVING CARS

S. Korea university tests driverless taxi

A South Korean university is testing a sedan that can pick up and transport passengers without a human driver, giving a glimpse into the future of autonomous public transport.

Seo Seung-Woo, director of the Intelligent Vehicle IT Research Center at Seoul National University, said the university has been testing the driverless taxi to transport disabled students around campus.

The vehicle, called Snuber, has been navigating the 4,109 square metre campus for the past six months without any accidents. It works in conjunction with a hailing app created by the university.

Companies around the world are betting that automated driving technology will transform public transportation.

In Japan, Robot Taxi Inc. plans to offer a full commercial service in 2020. In Greece, driverless buses called CityMobil2 have been tested in real traffic. General Motors said Monday it is investing $500 million US in ride-hailing company Lyft Inc. and forming a partnership that could eventually lead to on-demand, self-driving cars. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

market minute

DOLLAR 71.48¢ (–0.25¢)

TSX 12,920.14 (–7.01)

OIL $35.97 US (–79¢)

GOLD $1,078.40 US (+$3.20)

NATURAL GAS: $2.325 US (–0.9¢)
DOW JONES: 17,158.66 (+9.72)

IN BRIEF

Workers denied bathroom breaks to get $1.75M

A Pennsylvania company, American Future Systems Inc., that publishes business newsletters will pay about $1.75 million US to 6,000 employees who had to clock out while going on short breaks, including for the bathroom. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Wednesday, January 6, 2016

URBAN ETIQUETTE ELLEN VANSTONE

THE ISSUE

How do I cut my homophobic friend out of my life?

Dear Ellen,
I made a mistake of letting someone back into my life. This person had been a close friend for years, but our friendship quickly turned to turmoil after she burst into my home and told me how "disgusting" and "sinful" I was being with my choice of (same-sex) partner. She yelled and demanded that I end (either) my relationship or the friendship.
I feel that my choice in ending my friendship was a strong one, and cut the friendship that was full of homophobia.
Recently, I agreed to meet her for coffee to give her a chance to apologize. I have been told I'm too nice and give too many chances for forgiveness.
This is correct, as she just came full circle again; instead of confronting me with her disgust for my relationship, she went to friends we have in common.
I don't want to confront this person face to face, as I feel it would end with a few choice words of my own. But at the same time, I'd like to make it clear that this person no longer has a place in my life.
What should I do?
J.C.
Halifax

Dear J.C.,
I love how you say, "I feel that my choice in ending my friendship was a strong one, and cut the friendship that was full of homophobia."

Good manners are never more important than with the people we are close to.

That wasn't just a "strong" choice, my friend. It was the absolutely correct one by any standard. The person you had this "friendship" with is not a friend. She does not understand or accept who you really are. And her manners — what with the homophobia and bursting into homes to yell at people — are deplorable. Good manners are never more important than with the people we are close to, and she failed big time.

Notwithstanding your careful wording, your thinking does get fuzzy when you say "instead of confronting me with her disgust for my relationship, she went to friends we have in common."

Of course it's wrong of her to criticize you and/or your sexual orientation to friends behind your back. But why would you expect her to confront you about it again? She already did that. There's nothing more to be said.

Frankly, it makes sense that you have no desire for another confrontation. You'd be breaking no rules of etiquette if you directly expressed your anger and disappointment to her, as long as your mode of expression was below 60 decibels and didn't contravene any sections of the Criminal Code. But you don't owe her anything. Judging by her backstabbing behaviour, she already knows how you feel.

As for your worries that you are "too nice" and "give too many chances for forgiveness," don't worry. There's no such thing as being "too nice"; it's just code for being a doormat, which you are not. And giving someone a chance for forgiveness doesn't necessarily require contact. She's perfectly welcome to go into counselling about her pathologically destructive homophobia, shower you with abject letters of apology, say extravagantly nice things about you behind your back to friends and send you flowers every week for a year, at which point any self-respecting person might consider forgiveness and renewed friendship.

In the meantime, cut her off completely. If you run into her, be as polite as you can, but decline to engage or open the door to further contact unless or until she earns it from afar. Remember, the less you say, the better.

Actions speak louder than words, and never more eloquently as when you take no action at all.

Need advice?
Email Ellen:
scene@metronews.ca

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

What I hope gentrification won't paint over

I've been walking by the same window for three years. It's nondescript, sans signage, but always frames a painting; an inexplicable art window in between bars and boutiques on one of Toronto's overly hyped strips: Ossington Avenue.

I considered the window one of those oddities you find in any city, and until this weekend, never bothered to solve the mystery. Perhaps, I thought, an anonymous philanthropist was resisting commercialization and warp-speed gentrification — of the kind felt in any big city — by injecting a hit of art.

This weekend, the window held a field of poppies, crimson and dancing against a turquoise sky. On a grey day with a -22 C wind chill, I finally decided to figure it out.

It turns out Christian McLeod of 89 Ossington Ave. is a 46-year-old painter, and his live/work space is an echo of what the street used to be: cheap, deemed dangerous and undesirable, marked by car parks, a home reno store, an elevator mechanic's shop and other studios.

That was 10 years ago, and McLeod is among the holdouts, along with a cigar manufacturer and a dive bar. Places that put change into perspective, while they last — a synagogue in Chinatown, say — and are all the more valuable for it.

A French lady used to run a sandwich-and-soup shop open for just three hours a day. "You'd go up there one day and there'd be a sign: 'Gone to Paris, back in two weeks.'"

"It was quiet, it was almost abandoned," he says.

Due to residential zoning, McLeod's rent has stayed low. His new neighbours? "They're paying $7,000 a month for some of these storefronts."

Zoning also means he can't hang signs to advertise his studio, but he's always hung a painting. Five years ago, he'd never believe Bang Bang, an ice cream sandwich shop, would draw 40-minute line ups. "I would have said, 'You're nuts.'"

And as the foot traffic has picked up, he's begun to leave his door open on warm weekends.

Neighbours who've researched the area's history figure his is one of the oldest houses on the street. They discovered an artist lived in his exact space in the 1860s, he says. But McLeod is well aware that he may be its last occupant. Some day soon, he expects the landlords to flip the switch, and condos will rise.

"It's their property. They've been so good to me," he says. "It's just business."

I tell McLeod I don't know why I waited so long to learn the story of one of my favourite windows. I'm lucky it wasn't too late.

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metro LIFE

Your essential daily news

Wednesday, January 6, 2016

Check out #RichardSapper on Instagram for creative tributes to the acclaimed designer of the Tizio lamp, IBM ThinkPad, who died last week

'Tis the series premiere season

TELEVISION

New year, new episodes of 10 beloved TV shows

Brian Gasparek
For Metro Canada

Season 11 of It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia premieres tonight on FXX. ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED/GETTY IMAGES

Downton Abbey (Now airing)

This year marks the beginning of the end for one for the greatest Brit TV dramas of all time. The Crawleys return to PBS for a sixth and final season of Downton Abbey, which began airing Jan. 3. The final season has been airing in the U.K. since the fall… but of course you've been patient and download-free, right?

Megan Fox steps into New Girl's awkward shoes.

The Bachelor (Now airing)

One of TV's greatest guilty pleasures, The Bachelor, brought its addictive blend of romance, drama and superficiality back into our living rooms on Monday. This time around, two-dozen women are battling it out for the affection of Bachelorette finalist and fan favourite, Ben Higgins.

New Girl (Now airing)

It's hard to believe that four seasons of New Girl are already in the can, but alas, the fifth kicked off last night. To start the season, fans witness Megan Fox temporarily filling in for Zooey Deschanel as the show's female lead, as Deschanel took time off to be a new mom.

It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia (Tonight)

As we saw from its ridiculously awesome '80s ski-movie parody trailer, It's Always Sunny is finally back tonight. And although Season 11 won't likely feature any action on the slopes, we can't wait to see the gang back together.

American Idol (Tonight)

The 15th and final season of American Idol also starts this evening. If you gave up on the show years ago, you may want to tune back in for what's sure to be an epic last run. Along with host Ryan Seacrest, Harry Connick Jr, J-Lo and Keith Urban are returning as the show's final judges. It's going to be so big that even Kanye auditioned.

Shameless (Jan. 10)

On Jan. 10, the most hilariously dark and dysfunctional family on TV today, the Gallaghers, are back for a sixth season. If for some reason you haven't watched the American version of Shameless yet, you really need to get on it.

Workaholics (Jan. 14)

Stoners rejoice. Adam, Blake and Anders, our favourite doofus telemarketers, are back for a new season of Workaholics, starting Jan 14. Judging by its brain-melting, acid trip of a trailer, the new season looks like it's going to be the weirdest one yet.

Agent Carter (Jan. 19)

The awesome Peggy Carter is taking her superhero butt-kickings to the West Coast for Season 2 of Agent Carter, which begins on Jan. 19. This time around, Carter will have her hands full with L.A.-based atomic age threats in the wake of the Second World War.

Portlandia (Jan. 21)

The hilarious duo of Fred Armisen and Carrie Brownstein are getting set to unleash 10 more hipster-ribbing episodes of Portlandia starting on Jan. 21. We're pulling for more Peter and Nance in Season 6.

The X-Files (Jan. 24)

The most highly anticipated premiere of the New Year is the return of The X-Files. Mulder and Scully are back to fight aliens and search for the truth in the six-episode miniseries that begins on Jan. 24. We're pumped!

Gillian Anderson in The X-Files.

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Some holiday leftovers are best left uneaten

FOOD SAFETY

Can you eat it? Experts explore the dangers

If your post-holiday leftovers are calling your name, reconsider.

Remember: the "best before" dates on your food items don't apply once you've opened them.

If your kitchen is often brimming with leftovers, consider turning your refrigerator temperature down. They'll last longer. Turn the dial lower than the typical 4 C, around 1-4 C. This will slow down the growth of harmful pathogens.

We canvassed industry food and nutrition experts for advice on some food items you might be tempted to eat a few days later.

An open carton of chicken stock

Verdict: Use within three to five days.

"There are legit 'don't get sick' rules and then there are 'how far can I push it?' rules," says Theresa Albert, a Toronto nutritionist and food consultant who also writes for Metro. "We have to move food through the danger zone as quickly as possible." For chicken stock, you should play it safe and use within 3-5 days.

"If it was homemade chicken stock it would be less," Albert says, noting that carton of chicken stock is higher in preservatives such as sodium.

Here's a tip: use half the carton when you open it and freeze the other half.

Cooked turkey or chicken

Verdict: Use within three days or freeze.

You know that five-days-in-the-fridge smell? That's spoilage.

"I probably wouldn't use it up to a week past," says Brita Ball, food safety consultant and adjunct professor at the University of Guelph. "When you're getting to the fifth day you can start to smell a little bit of spoilage happening."

Ball suggests freezing leftovers immediately. "The sooner you freeze them, the better." You could also recook the meat to kill off some of the "spoilage organisms," which aren't harmful. It's the pathogens like salmonella you need to worry about.

Hummus left on the counter overnight

Verdict: Toss it or heat it up.

Jeffrey Farber, former director at Health Canada and current food science professor at the University of Guelph is quick to call this a big "no-no."

"That type of product which is left out overnight, you never know," he says. Farber is also wary of suggesting you use the hummus in cooking. As is Ball: "I don't like to waste food, but I would throw it out, absolutely," she says. She wouldn't even cook with it. "Once it's out on the counter, I have no idea what pathogens might be in there."

Nutritionist Albert suggests it's best to toss it if the hummus is mayo or yogurt based. She wouldn't spread it on toast, but might use it to thicken a soup or gravy.

Slow cooker chili with cooked ground beef, left on counter for 8 hours without power

Verdict: Toss it.

Don't treat food safety like a game. "It could be the game of your life," says Albert. If you forgot to turn the slow cooker on, start from scratch. "Ground beef is one of the highest risk foods. There's just far too many opportunities for the beef to be contaminated."

The standard is two hours of meat on the counter before it becomes a "food safety risk," says Ball. "People waste food and they don't need to. It's OK to use food past the best before date, because that's a food quality issue." But food safety is different, she advises. This one's a no-brainer.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

When leftovers start piling up in your fridge, don't treat food safety like a game. "It could be the game of your life," one expert says. ISTOCK

ROSE REISMAN THE SAVVY EATER

THIS WEEK: Salad Dressings

PICK THIS

Renee's Greek Yogurt Cucumber and Dill Dressing

Portion 4 Tbsp
Calories 160
Fat 14 g

SKIP THIS

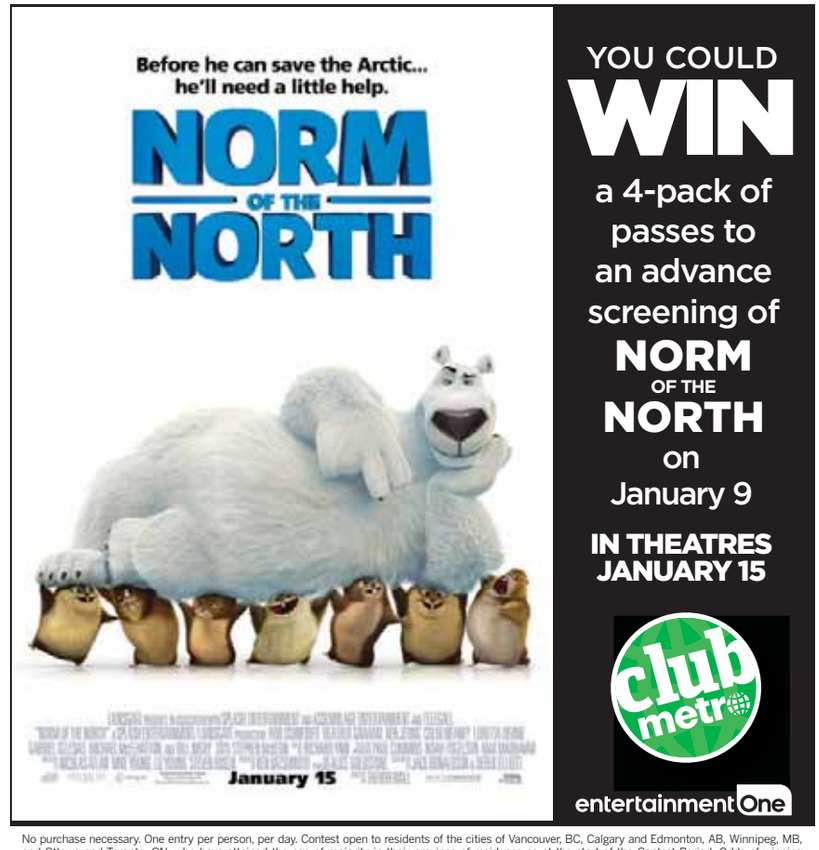
Renee's Mighty Caesar Dressing

Portion 4 Tbsp
Calories 320
Fat 32 g

HERE'S WHY

Equivalent in fat to a Burger King Double Stacker (two beef patties, cheese, bacon, Burger King Stacker sauce and sesame seed bun).

With the start of a new year, health and wellness are top of mind for many. Salads are what we all think is the silver bullet to weight loss in January — but beware! Those greens and other veggies are innocent, but look closely to what you're pouring over top. The Mighty Caesar dressing is made primarily from oil, eggs and cheese, giving you excess calories and about half your daily fat — which is equivalent to a double cheeseburger! In comparison, the Cucumber & Dill dressing is much lighter and healthier, with the first ingredient being Greek yogurt.



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metro DRIVE

Your essential daily news

Mystery electric car startup Faraday Future unveils its first prototype

Take the middle road with the X1

ROAD TESTED

THE CHECKLIST | 2016 BMW X1 XDRIVE 28I

THE BASICS

Type. Four-door, five-passenger compact SUV
Power. Turbocharged 2.0-litre four-cylinder (228/258)
Transmission. Eight-speed automatic
Price. $38,800 (base); $50,040 (as-tested), plus destination

MAIN AND INTERIOR PHOTOS: JIL MCINTOSH/FOR METRO, OTHERS HANDOUT

COOL FEATURES

- Head-up display
- Heated steering wheel
- Connection package with concierge service
- Collision mitigation with emergency braking
- Panorama sunroof
- Hands-free liftgate operation
- Touchpad infotainment input

POINTS

- The dash-mounted "tablet-style" infotainment screen keeps your eyes up at the windshield when you're looking at the system.
- The new design provides more headroom than before.
- Run-flat tires are standard equipment, but they can be swapped for regular all-season tires as a no-charge option.

MARKET POSITION

- The compact crossover/SUV is one of Canada's hottest markets, and many of the premium automakers are bringing out smaller models. The X1's redesign keeps its compact footprint but makes it roomier than before.

THE COMPETITION

Mercedes-Benz GLA 250 4Matic
Base price: $38,000

Audi A3 Quattro
Base price: : $36,800

Lexus NX 200t
Base price: $41,950

REVIEW

New BMW crossover good for both city and country

Jil McIntosh
For Metro Canada

Automakers often share vital components between their models, and that's what has happened with BMW's smallest crossover, its X1.

For 2016, it morphs into its second generation, with new styling and more interior space. But it now links with BMW's other brand, and shares its engine and driveline with the equally new Mini Clubman.

While it's still all-wheel drive like the previous X1, this newest model primarily works with its front wheels, sending power to the rear ones as needed for traction and stability on curves, acceleration, and slippery surfaces.

The new exterior design gives it more resemblance to the larger X3, while the roomy interior follows BMW's signature look. The styling is solid, but there's a lot of hard plastic on the dash that looks a bit cheap for the price.

My tester had optional sports seats that were very comfortable and supportive, along with sliding and reclining rear seats that fold almost flat for extra cargo space.

The X1's turbocharged 2.0-litre four-cylinder engine includes an auto start/stop system that shuts it off at idle, such as when you're waiting at a light, and automatically starts it again as soon as you take your foot off the brake.

It's smoother than many I've driven, but you can turn it off if you prefer.

This new engine actually makes a little less power than the previous generation, but you wouldn't know it by the feel behind the wheel.

The transmission is an eight-speed automatic that can be optioned to a performance version with paddle shifters, in a package that also adds a sportier steering feel.

> **Steering response is quick, and the X1 handles beautifully.**

Steering response is quick, and the X1 handles beautifully. However, the ride is tuned for sports performance rather than luxury, and it's very firm.

The all-wheel system transmits power seamlessly between the front and rear axles. Although it's not really an off-road warrior, I've driven the X1 on a challenging course that it handled quite well, making it a feasible choice for those who spend weekdays on the asphalt, but like their weekends at the cottage and need something that can get them all the way there.

Workers at the Wolfsburg plant assemble the Volkswagen Beetle. COURTESY VOLKSWAGEN

HISTORY

Happy birthday bug! Beetle turns 70

In the days between December 25, 1945 and January 1, 1946 a little German car with an air-cooled engine at its rear and space for a family of four, rolled off the production line for the first time.

The Volkswagen Type 1, better known as The Beetle, went on to be one of the most important, iconic and biggest-selling cars of the 20th century and set the foundations on which its makers built one of the biggest car groups in the world.

However, if it hadn't been for the British military, the Beetle and everything that has followed in its wake may never have been.

At the end of the Second World War, the military facility that had been building the Beetle's forerunner, the 'KdF-Wagen,' came under British control. And rather than shut it down, the military, under the leadership of one Senior Resident Officer Major Ivan Hirst, repurposed it for civilian production, undertook an initial order for 20,000 cars and preserved 6,000 jobs in the process. The idea was that the cars would be used by Allied forces stationed in Germany and to begin with production was small-scale, just 1,000 cars a month. But spurred on by Hirst's vision and by the lifting of export restrictions plus currency stabilization, within three years the Beetle was on sale globally.

Dr. Manfred Grieger, Head of the Volkswagen Aktiengesellschaft Corporate History Department, describes Hirst as a "skillful pragmatist" who "gave the factory and the workforce a vision, motivating British military personnel and German workers alike to turn the languishing works into a successful market-driven business," he said. "He knew the qualities of the Volkswagen Saloon and was able to realize them on the road."

The Beetle ceased production on European shores in 1978 and global production ground to a halt entirely in 2003, by which time over 21 million had been produced. The car that replaced it, the VW Golf, has been twice as successful in terms of sales since production started, but such is the love for the old Beetle that VW decided to resurrect it as the "New" Beetle in 1997. AFP

Make cooking together a cherished tradition. ALL IMAGES ISTOCK

The family that cooks together

NEW YEAR

Introducing kids to the kitchen gives useful life skills

The new year is a wonderful time when families can pause and reflect on the importance of family time.

After a steady stream of holiday visiting, it's the perfect time to get back into a routine and spend quality time with your children. One great way to turn simple moments into shared enjoyments is to invite your kids into the kitchen to cook with you.

> **"It allows you to spend precious time together and create lasting memories.**
> Scott Goodman, lawyer and father

For the Goodman family, cooking together has become a cherished tradition.

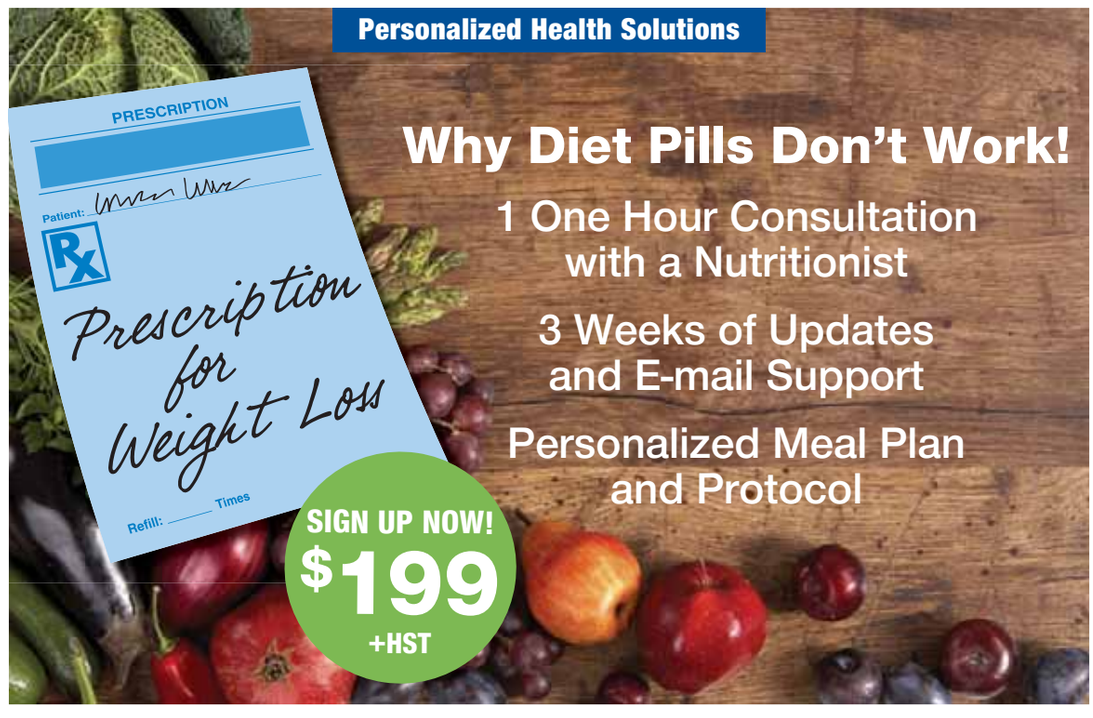
"Not only does cooking as a family give your children invaluable life skills, but it allows you to spend precious time together and create lasting memories," says Scott Goodman, lawyer and father.

When children are welcomed into the family kitchen, they are more likely to try new foods, eat better and build the confidence they need to prepare meals and snacks for themselves.

To help parents include their children in meal preparation, the Registered Dietitians at Dairy Farmers of Canada have created age-appropriate suggestions, broken down into three skill levels, to make involving the entire family in the kitchen easy. For beginners, starting out simply is key. Getting kids to wash produce, peel vegetables and measure ingredients is a good way to introduce them to the kitchen.

Once they've mastered those skills, they can work their way up to intermediate tasks such as chopping, frying and grilling. Eventually, they can take on more creative responsibilities like searing, sautéing and experimenting with ingredients.

NEWS CANADA



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metro SPORTS

Steve Nash and Phoenix Suns owner Robert Sarver have bought a controlling share of Spanish soccer club Real Mallorca

Gold-medal Finnish

WORLD JUNIORS

Finland beats Russia in OT to claim its 4th under-20 title

Kasperi Kapanen scored a wrap-around goal in overtime as Finland rallied past Russia 4-3 on Tuesday to win the world junior hockey championship.

Patrik Laine, Sebastian Aho and captain Mikko Rantanen all scored in the third period as Finland staged a late comeback. Kaapo Kahkonen made 22 saves for the win.

"That's one of those goals that you always dream of," said Kapanen. "I guess dreams do come true."

TUESDAY In Helsinki

4	3
SUOMI	

Andrei Svetlakov scored twice for Russia and Vladislav Kamenev had the other goal. Alexander Georgiev stopped 25 shots.

On the winner, Kapanen deked around two defenders, skated around the back of Russia's goal and threw the puck into a wide-open net as Georgiev failed to dive back into position.

Finland's Kasperi Kapanen, right, celebrates scoring the winning goal with teammates Vili Saarijarvi, left, and Joni Tuulola. RONI REKOMAA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

"Everything's so blurry," said Kapanen when asked to describe the goal. "So excited and in shock at the same time."

It was Finland's fourth world junior title and second in the past three years.

"There's not a lot of words (for) how to describe the feeling," said Rantanen. "Very happy. Happy for the team, for the whole of Finland. We had an absolutely unbelievable crowd there and everyone was watching at home on TV."

Georgiev's start in net was a surprise after Ilya Samsonov's solid 26-save performance in Russia's 2-1 semifinal win over the United States.

Although the fans at Hartwall Arena - home of the Kontinental Hockey League's Jokerit club - were mainly Finnish, there were supporters from many of the participating nations in attendance. Many Canadians in attendance supported the host side even though the Finns eliminated Canada in the quarter-finals.

Red-clad fans could be seen waving Canadian flags and dancing in the stands along with Finnish supporters chanting "Suomi!" for all of the host side's goals. THE CANADIAN PRESS

BRONZE

Earlier in the day, Anders Bjork, Matthew Tkachuk and Ryan Donato each scored two goals as the Americans won bronze with an 8-3 win over Sweden.

REDBLACKS

Williams snags a contract extension

Henry Burris's favourite target is staying with the Ottawa Redblacks.

The Redblacks announced Tuesday they've agreed to a contract extension with the Williams, who was eligible to become a free agent next month. The speedy receiver had 88 catches for 1,214 yards — both team highs — last season, his first in Ottawa after two years in the NFL with the New Orleans Saints and Chicago Bears.

"They have a great rapport, on and off the field," Ottawa GM Marcel Desjardins said of Burris and Williams. "I think it's important for each of them to have the other there.

"(Williams) is a difference-maker, he's dynamic. Our offence is going to be the same offence so we wanted to certainly have an impact player like him come back."

The five-foot-nine 155-pound Williams was one of four 1,000-yard receivers with Ottawa last season in former offensive co-ordinator Jason Maas's system. Burris, 40, took full advantage, posting a career-best 70.9 completion percentage and league-high 5,703 passing yards in capturing the CFL's outstanding player award. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chris Williams THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

MLB IN BRIEF

Bonds, Clemens expected to get more HOF votes

Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens and other tainted stars of the Steroids Era appear likely to get a boost in Hall of Fame balloting Wednesday, but not enough to enter Cooperstown this year.

Following the elimination of about 100 retired baseball writers from the electorate, Bonds and Clemens were on track for a 5-10 percentage point increase.

Ken Griffey Jr. seems assured of election on the first try, possibly with a record vote of close to 100 per cent. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Blue Jays acquire reliever in trade with Athletics

The Toronto Blue Jays acquired right-hander Arnold Leon from the Oakland Athletics on Tuesday in exchange for cash considerations or a player to be named later.

The 27-year-old reliever made his big-league debut with the Athletics last season, going 0-2 with a 4.39 earned-run average over 19 appearances.

He had a 2-5 record and 2.95 ERA over 20 appearances (six starts) with triple-A Nashville last year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

LAWSUITS

Baseball stars take action vs. Al-Jazeera

Two Major League Baseball players have filed defamation lawsuits against Al-Jazeera America over statements made in a documentary about performance-enhancing drugs in sports.

Ryan Zimmerman of the Washington Nationals and Ryan Howard of the Philadelphia Phillies filed the suits Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Washington.

The suits refer to the documentary The Dark Side: Secrets of Sports Doping, which Al-Jazeera America broadcast Dec. 27. Each suit seeks an unspecified amount in damages. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TIES TO NFL

The documentary in question also suggested that Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning took HGH while recovering from neck surgery.

MLB

Anthopoulos rumoured to join Dodgers

Alex Anthopoulos was named 2015's MLB executive of the year by the Sporting News. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Former Toronto Blue Jays general manager Alex Anthopoulos will reportedly join the Los Angeles Dodgers, according to Vince Cauchon, a sports reporter for Quebec City's CHOI 98.1 who tweeted the news Sunday.

When contacted by Torstar News Service on Tuesday, Anthopoulos declined to comment.

The Dodgers have been a long-rumoured landing spot for the 38-year-old baseball executive, who opted to walk away from the Jays' front office in October after the franchise's most successful season in 22 years rather than work under new team president Mark Shapiro.

The Dodgers' general manager is Farhan Zaidi, the former assistant GM of the Oakland A's with whom Anthopoulos has enjoyed a good working relationship for many years. Zaidi, like Anthopoulos, is Canadian. The Dodgers also recently poached international scouting executive Ismael Cruz from Toronto, so Anthopoulos would have other familiar faces in the organization. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RECIPE One Pot Chicken Pasta

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

The genius of this recipe is that the pasta cooks right in the sauce, meaning you only have one pot to clean.

Ready in
Prep time: 30 minutes
Serves 4

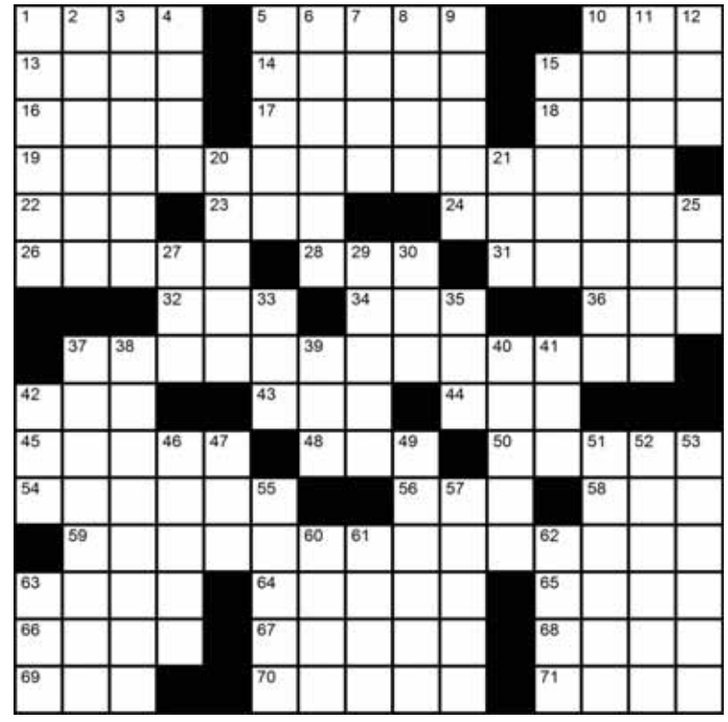
Ingredients
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 4 skinless, boneless chicken breasts, cubed
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 cups mushrooms, sliced
- 1 Tbsp fresh Thyme
- 1/2 cup white wine
- 1/2 cup chicken stock (or 1 cup of stock if you don't have or feel like using wine)
- 1 x 28 oz can of whole tomatoes
- 1 cup water
- 225 grams of dried pasta
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1/2 cup mozzarella

Directions
1. Warm up your olive oil in a large, deep skillet over medium heat. Brown the chicken, working in batches. Once all the meat is nicely browned but not cooked through, add the garlic and give it all a stir.
2. Now add the thyme and mushrooms and let them soften up and kick off their juices. Add the wine and/or stock, water and tomatoes. Break the tomatoes up with the back of a wooden spoon.
3. Bring the sauce to a bubbly simmer and add your pasta. As the pasta softens up in the heat, push it under the liquid. Depending on which pasta you're using it will take about 15 to 20 minutes. Check seasoning and remove from the heat.
4. Top evenly with mozzarella and serve.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Tropical birds
5. Explode
10. Baseball bosses, briefly
13. Actor Rob
14. Singer Ms. Baker
15. Coin insertion place
16. __ __ all possible
17. P.E.I., The __ Province
18. Jekyll's other side
19. As per #37-Across... Tune by The Weeknd in the 'Favorite Song' category: 4 wds.
22. German article
23. 'Pay' suffix
24. Dawn goddess in Roman mythology
26. British singer/activist Billy
28. Vintage laundry detergent brand
31. Frankie Goes to Hollywood hit
32. Him, in Quebec
34. Dance step
36. 'Social' suffix
37. Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2016 on CBS... __ __ Awards
42. __ __ mode
43. Look
44. Energy unit
45. Gulf of St. Lawrence attraction, __ Rock
48. 'Inc.' cousin
50. Canada __ (Patriotic bird)
54. Tropical fruit
56. Hawaii's __ Beach
58. Airport for The Kardashians, commonly
59. Maple taffy drizzled on snow treat in Quebec: 4 mots
63. Good: French
64. Rain/snow mix
65. Declare with certainty
66. As soon as...
67. Matrikin
68. Clay-ish stuff
69. Questionnaire question
70. Certain candle
71. Celebratory cries!

DOWN
1. The Autobiography of __ __. Toklas (1933 Gertrude Stein book)
2. "That's against the rules!": 2 wds.
3. "__ __ Be Your Man" by The Beatles
4. Rectangular paving†block
5. Bakery item
6. Like the book that's never been opened
7. Historic Canadian Louis
8. Base
9. Ms. Tucker
10. __ Acid Peel (Dermatology clinic service)
11. Preside over the political debate
12. Fr. holy woman
15. Portion
20. Be a mirror in a just-used-shower bathroom: 2 wds.
21. Cat's coat
25. Logs-making need
27. Mop & __ (Floor cleaner)
29. Bothered
30. Mr. Efron
33. They, in Sherbrooke
35. Talking Heads' "And __ Was"
37. Creation of fashionable folds
38. Secret Service agent's electronics device
39. Fitting-here fish
40. Musical grinder
41. "__ __ Blind" by 54-40
42. Handheld add-on
46. Chili con __
47. Storm's centre
49. Erase
51. John's "Grease" (1978) co-star
52. In a wise way
53. Strains
55. Plus
57. Tap liquid
60. Arm bone
61. Harvest
62. Effortless
63. Red carpet scarf

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Take initiative. If you sit around waiting for others to make the first move it's unlikely you'll get anywhere. Aries is a Cardinal sign, meaning you have leadership qualities, so get out there and lead.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
There is a danger that with so many people singing your praises you'll lose sight of the fact that you make mistakes just like everyone. Don't let the hero worship go to your head.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
There may be a lot of stress in your life but you will find ways to cope. One way, of course, is to take nothing too seriously. If you can't laugh at life then you're doing it wrong.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Don't allow others to speak on your behalf. If you do there is a very good chance they'll say something that causes problems. Take responsibility for your own thoughts and beliefs — and always speak from the heart.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
How much do you trust someone? Enough to let them handle your money? If you're convinced that they won't cheat you then let them make decisions. If not, stay in control.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You want to push your luck today. You want to take chances. A link between the Sun and Pluto in your fellow Earth sign of Capricorn means you know that you can't be beaten.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
If someone needs your help today you must give it with no questions asked. A deed done with no thought for your own reward will do no end of good. The way to change the world is to be nice.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
This promises to be an excellent day socially, get out and make new friends and enjoy new experiences. Someone you meet on your travels will say something that opens your mind to new possibilities.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Don't follow the herd. Go your own way and, if certain people don't like it, take that as a sign you are on the right track. You make the rules.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Stand back from yourself and work out why you think and act in certain ways. Once you realize that so much of what you do is done out of habit it will be easier to change things.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Use your powers of persuasion to do what needs to be done. It may be annoying having to rely on other people but the planets warn you won't get far on your own.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You're in the mood to take a few risks and they will pay if you join forces with like-minded people and work together towards a common goal. Anything is possible when you are part of a team.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

			5		1		4	
2		9				8		
	4				3		9	
9		8	7		5			6
5			4		8	3		9
	3		9				7	
		4				1		5
	1		8		4			

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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8	4	9	7	5	1	2	6	3
7	3	6	9	2	8	4	5	1
5	2	1	4	6	3	8	7	9
3	7	5	2	1	9	6	8	4
1	6	4	8	3	5	9	2	7
9	8	2	6	7	4	1	3	5
4	9	7	3	8	6	5	1	2
2	1	8	5	9	7	3	4	6
6	5	3	1	4	2	7	9	8

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